

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jenan Jondy, REI Coordinator

517-884-6477

1615 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912

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MSU Regional Economic Innovation Calls for Project Proposals: Co-Learning Plans on Innovative Economic Development Strategies

Lansing, MI - Since 2011, the Michigan State University U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) has supported over 180 innovative economic development projects in Michigan, spurring high-growth entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic innovation. To date, REI projects have had over \$68 million in economic impact in distressed regions of Michigan, with 97 Student-Led Faculty Guided technical assistance projects, 69 Co-Learning Plans, and 16 Innovation Fellows.



University Outreach and Engagement

Center for Community and
Economic Development

1615 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912-2822

517-353-9555
Fax: 517-884-6489
ced.msu.edu

The Center now calls on authors and experts to contribute to the next annual cycle of its work by developing new Co-Learning Plans. REI invites authors to research and develop Co-Learning Plans focusing on innovative economic development tools, models, policies, programs, and practices. Selected Co-Learning Plans will cover four key areas identified by the REI Network: resiliency planning, financial resiliency, 21st-century communications, and circular economies. These Co-Learning Plans will serve as essential resources for local and state economic development practitioners and policymakers, providing guidance as they make decisions that affect Michigan's distressed communities and regions.

The REI Center and partners have identified seven topics for possible Co-Learning Plans in 2025: Workforce Transition and Economic Adaptation; Fair Share Affordable Housing Linked to State Supported Economic Development; Encouraging Large Companies and Public Institutions to Procure from Local Businesses; Addressing Agricultural Workforce and Infrastructure Shortages through Innovation Centers; Community Economic Impacts and Feasibility of Developing Renewable Energy Sources; Assessing the Capacity of Economic Development Professionals for Community Benefit Plans and Agreements; Assessing Businesses Concerns in Adopting Community Benefit Plans and Agreements; and Other.

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REI welcomes submissions that align with the identified areas of interest or propose other relevant topics within the four focal areas: resiliency planning, financial resiliency, 21st-century communications, and circular economies. The findings and recommendations from these plans will help drive job creation and business retention in economically distressed regions across Michigan.

Funded Co-Learning Plans will support REI's mission of enhancing Michigan's economic resilience and innovation through collaboration and knowledge sharing. Interested authors can find submission guidelines and deadlines on the REI website <https://reicenter.org/projects/24-25-project-overviews>. For further inquiries, please contact Jenan Jondy at jondyjen@msu.edu.

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